

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1386

By Sontany

A RESOLUTION to commend and thank Mayor Karl Dean, Metro Nashville government, and all participants who assisted for their rapid response to the Nashville Flood.

WHEREAS, on the weekend of May 1-2, 2010, much of Middle and West Tennessee experienced record levels of flooding as the result of tremendous amounts of rainfall throughout the State, bringing devastation and disaster as the water rose; and

WHEREAS, our beautiful capital city, Nashville, saw catastrophic flooding throughout Davidson County, from Antioch to Bellevue, Bordeaux to Belle Meade, Downtown to Metro Center, and Donelson to Pennington Bend, destroying homes, businesses, cars, and lives as the city received between 14 and 18 inches of rain – more than double any previous two-day rain total ever recorded; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Karl Dean and Nashville responded immediately and decisively in a time of crisis with a coordinated and strategic effort among all departments and agencies through the Emergency Operations Center during the May 1-2 Flood event, undoubtedly benefited by the fact that the Office of Emergency Management had trained for a flooding event just last year in Emmetsburg, Maryland at the National Fire Academy; and

WHEREAS, truly enjoying their finest hour, Nashville's first responders in the field worked above and beyond the call of duty, as they put their own lives on the line, performing countless water rescues, answering emergency calls, and saving lives; and

WHEREAS, as the flood waters rose, Metro Fire Department personnel performed an untold number of swift water and roof top rescues, in some cases becoming trapped themselves as a result; getting fire personnel to admit that their acts were heroic or extraordinary has proven a tough task, as they view it simply as "just part of the job"; and

WHEREAS, Metro Nashville's entire police department, with 1,300 sworn police personnel, was called to duty; twenty-five police officers and thirty-five firemen had homes affected by the flood, but they continued to work; and

WHEREAS, Metro Police accrued an estimated \$2.5 million in overtime costs during the first two weeks of May due to flood related patrolling activities, with officers working twelve-hour shifts without days off to protect Nashville's neighborhoods from those who might take advantage of the situation; and

WHEREAS, while recovering from this countywide crisis that resulted in approximately \$2 billion in damage, Nashville has stepped-up immediately by removing debris and waiving permits and fees; Metro Public Works has hauled off over 40,000 tons of debris; Metro Water Services is specially commended for its exceptional work in keeping the Omohundro Water Treatment Plant in service and for the rapid turnaround in getting the K.R. Harrington Plant back on line; and

WHEREAS, to be commended for rendering exemplary service during this crisis are the employees of the Metro Fire Department, the Metro Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management, the Emergency Communications Center, the Davidson County Sheriff's Office, Metro Water Services, Public Works, Codes, Metro Legal, Planning, Metro Public Health, Metro Transit Authority, Metro General Services, Metro Information Technology, Metro Schools, and Metro Parks; and

WHEREAS, the following businesses and non-profit organizations should be commended for their sterling service and assistance, including Nashville Electric Service, Piedmont Natural Gas, Comcast, AT&T, Hands On Nashville, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the United Way; and

WHEREAS, those Metro agencies, businesses, and organizations that were present in the Emergency Operations Center to assist in the rapid response include: the Office of Emergency Management, Airport Authority, Assessor's Office, AT&T, Codes, Comcast, Community Foundation, Davidson County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Communications, Emergency Medical, Finance, General Services, Harpeth Valley Utility, Hands on Nashville, Metro Water, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, Metro Action Commission, the

Mayor's Office, Music City Central, Metro Development and Housing Authority, Metro 3, Metro Transit Authority, Nashville Electric, Nashville Fire, Metro Parks, Metro Police, Metro Public Health, Piedmont Gas, Planning, Public Works, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Metro Schools, Second Harvest Foodbank, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and United Way/2-1-1; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding and dedicated civil servants who have led their respective agencies during this crisis are: Chief Steve Anderson – Metro Police, Chief Stephen Halford – Metro Fire Department/Office of Emergency Management, Duane Phillips – Emergency Communications Center, Scott Potter – Metro Water Services, Billy Lynch, David Himes, and Mark Macy – Public Works, Terry Cobb – Metro Codes, Rick Bernhart – Metro Planning, DeCosta Jenkins – Nashville Electric Service, Rich Riebeling – Metro Finance, Sue Cain – Metro Legal, Dr. Bill Paul – Metro Health Department, Paul Ballard – Metro Transit Authority, Nancy Whittemore – Metro General Services, Keith Durbin – Metro Information Technology, Dr. Jesse Register – Metro Public Schools, Tommy Lynch – Metro Parks, Judy Ladebauche – Metro Animal Care and Control, and Mary Pat Boatfield - Nashville Humane Society; and

WHEREAS, performing their duties with alacrity and acumen during the crisis, the dedicated public servants who capably lead and staff the Office of Emergency Management are: Chief Halford of the Nashville Fire Department, Chief Shannon of the Nashville Fire Department, Kevin Penney, Heidi Jordan, Amanda Sluss, Melissa Phillips, Scott Harris, Barbara Gmerek, Teresa Brown, Paulette Dailey, Rodonna Robinson, Anthony Boyum, Nick D'Asaro, Judith Davis, Angela Roscoe, Robbie Hill, and Jeff Starks; and

WHEREAS, stepping forward to aid the citizens of Nashville, Lipscomb University, the Jewish Community Center, and the Al Menah Shrine Temple all served as Red Cross Shelter locations; the Bellevue Community Center, East Community Center, Hermitage Community Center, Hadley Community Center, and Coleman Community Center ably served as Disaster Information Centers; and Belmont University lent the use of the Curb Center for the Joint Information Center; and

WHEREAS, surveying the damage during the first days after the flood, USAR teams of 100 fire and police personnel went door to door to 1,100 homes in Bordeaux, Bellevue, Neely's

Bend, Pennington Bend, and Antioch on heavily affected streets to ensure there were no persons trapped or in need of water or food; and

WHEREAS, with an impact that was felt immediately, Hands On Nashville coordinated thousands of registered volunteers and sent them out into the community; as of May 25, 2010, over 15,155 volunteers have donated over 64,000 hours of service; and

WHEREAS, bottled water has been distributed at seven locations throughout the city; the Metro Action Commission worked to distribute box lunches to school children enrolled in the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch program while school was out; as a result of the flood, ninety-nine Metro employees and 300 Metro Schools employees have been displaced; and

WHEREAS, offering additional aid to victims of the flood, Metro utilities such as Metro Water, NES, and Piedmont Gas have waived late and turn-on fees, as well as extending some due dates, and legislation is currently pending to allow Metro Codes to waive the fees associated with obtaining permits for flood-related repairs; and

WHEREAS, the timely response of all involved provided comfort for those residents of Nashville who have lost so much, and the sterling service delivered by every individual, agency, business, and organization previously cited is truly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body commends and applauds Mayor Karl Dean, the employees of Metro Nashville, and all participating businesses, organizations, and agencies who assisted in the rapid response to the Nashville Flood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.